> "We were a victim of our own success. Everyone wanted more CMFP."

> – admiral participating in RIMPAC 2006

Based at the Pacific Regional Network Operations Center at Wahiawa, Hawaii, CMFP was the core of the integrated planning and execution in RIMPAC '06. Servers were also located at Esquimalt, British Columbia, and the Australian NOC at Canberra, as shown in Figure 1.

Ships connected to CMFP through satellite connection. U.S. ships had Internet Protocol connectivity through the Defense Satellite Communications System super high frequency X-band termination or dedicated International Maritime Satellite Bravo (Inmarsat-B) lease.

Coalition ships used dedicated Inmarsat-B leases with the exception of HMAS Manoora, which used a commercial Ka-band termination to Australia. Notably, this was the first RIMPAC in which each ship had continuous round-the-clock CENTRIXS connectivity versus intermittent dial-up connection.

The RIMPAC Combined Air Operations Center was established for the first time at Kenney Headquarters at Hickam Air Force Base. The RIMPAC Combined Forces Air Component Commander was able to leverage Kenney's tremendous capabilities and infrastructure while enjoying the same CMFP connectivity with coalition forces.

The core of the Combined Forces Air Component Commander's planning was conducted on a special version of the Theater Battle Management and Core System that was created for coalition use.

The result was a reliable, secure network which succeeded in attracting an unprecedented number of collaborators.

Whereas CENTRIXS access in previous exercises had been largely limited to watchstations, CMFP attracted hands-on attention from numerous participants throughout the chain of command up to flag level.
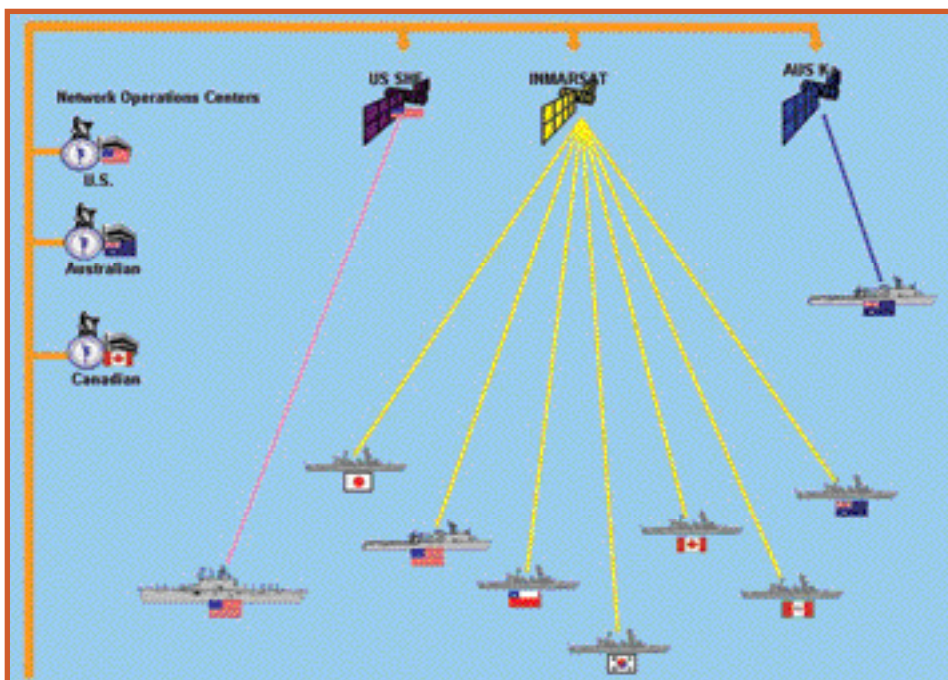
One admiral aptly summed up the phenomenon by noting that, "We were a victim of our own success. Everyone wanted more CMFP."

Hopefully, that will indeed be the case in RIMPAC 2008.

The authors were members of the Third Fleet staff for RIMPAC '06. Lt. Cmdr. Augelli is the fleet communications officer, Lt. Cmdr. Samara is the knowledge manager and Lt. Cmdr. Haw is the fleet information systems officer.

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Figure 1. RIMPAC 2006 CENTRIXS CMFP Architecture.